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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on December 2, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-28 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 12, 14, and 26-28 are independent claims and the remaining claims are dependent claims. In this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 12, 14, 21 and 26-28 have been amended. Applicants believe that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance. A notice to this affect is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,381,634 to Tello et al. (hereinafter Tello) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,684,634 to Janacek et al. (hereinafter Janacek). While the Examiner listed claims 1-28 as being rejected over Tello in view of Janacek, only claims 1, 2, 3, 12-14, 15 and 26-28 were discussed in the office action. Applicant therefore assumes the Examiner intended to only reject claims 1, 2, 3, 12-14, 15 and 26-28, and the present response addresses the rejections of claims 1, 2, 3, 12-14, 15 and 26-28 over Tello in view of Janacek.

Tello discloses at column 2, lines 41-49 a method using portable e-mail addresses wherein a well-known address is translated to a literal address and returns the corresponding literal address value. This is useful, for example, when a well-known address is desired to be kept even if the ISP has changed. Tello does not disclose or suggest the step of verifying the authenticity of an originator address associated with an outbound message.

Janacek discloses, at column 2, lines 57-64, a method for secure transmission of a message via a network wherein a recipient of the message is not a party to the network or maintains an active address within the network. Message from a network-party sender addressed to an unknown user are deposited in a unique account created for the addresses recipient. Janacek does not disclose or suggest the step of verifying the authenticity of an originator address associated with an outbound message.

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In contrast to Tello and Janacek, claim 1 has been amended to include a limitation from claim 8 wherein the authenticity of an originator address associated with an outbound message is verified. This is described in the specification at page 11, lines 4-12 wherein the authenticity of the originator address of the outbound message is verified to ensure that the outbound message has arrived from an originator computer system and/or username from which it purports to have arrived. This avoids a situation that allows a computer user to specify a fraudulent username as the originator of an email message (i.e., avoids false names in the FROM: field of an email message). Since neither Tello nor Janacek, taken alone or in combination, disclose verifying the authenticity of an originator address associated with an outbound message, while amended claim 1 recites such, claim 1 is believed allowable over Tello and Janacek. Claims 12, 14 and 26-28 have been amended in a similar manner and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Claims 2, 3, 13 and 15 depend from claims 1, 12 or 14 and are believed allowable as they depend from a base claim which is believed allowable. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 3, 12-14, 15 and 26-28 over Tello in view of Janacek is believed to have been overcome.

Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tello in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,507,866 to Barchi (hereinafter Barchi).

Tello has been discussed above. Barchi discloses, at column 4, lines 58-63, a method for identifying undesired e-mail messages by storing fields from the header of each received email and analyzing the stored fields for a pattern indicative of the undesired e-mail messages. Barchi does not disclose or suggest the step of verifying the authenticity of an originator address associated with an outbound message.

In contrast to Tello and Barchi, claim 1 has been amended to include a limitation from claim 8 wherein the authenticity of an originator address associated with an outbound message is verified. The Examiner stated, with respect to the rejection of claims 8 and 21, that Barchi discloses verifying the authenticity of an originator address associated with the outbound message at

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column 8, lines 1-50. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement. A careful review of Barchi, and in particular column 8, lines 1-50, finds that Barchi discloses storing a field indicating the originator of a received e-mail message, and checking whether the number of received e-mails from the originator exceeds the threshold for the record. Barchi does not disclose or suggest the verification of the originator address, as recited in amended claim 1 and discussed in the specification as filed at page 11, lines 4-12. Accordingly, since amended claim 1 discloses verifying the authenticity of an originator address associated with an outbound message, while amended neither Tello nor Barchi, taken alone or in combination, disclose the same, claim 1 is believed allowable over Tello and Barchi. Claims 12, 14 and 26-28 have been amended in a similar manner and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Claims 2-11, 13 and 15-25 depend from claims 1, 12 or 14 and are believed allowable as they depend from a base claim which is believed allowable. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1 -28 over Tello in view of Barchi is believed to have been overcome.

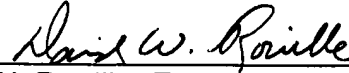
In view of the above, the Examiner's rejections are believed to have been overcome, placing claims 1-28 in condition for allowance and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office deems a fee necessary, this fee may be charged to the account of the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

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If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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